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State employees working in the dark to save money?



The Governor thinks she may have a bright idea to help get the state out of a budget deficit.

She wants to shut off the lights.

On Wednesday the Governor's office ordered every other light to be unplugged in state offices.

"They actually wanted us to unplug our Christmas tree and we said we'll do that after Christmas," said State Treasurer Dean Martin.

Martin told ABC 15 that he was surprised to hear about the proclamation and didn't know

anything about it until workers showed up and started turning things off.

Martin said, "Yesterday we had two staffers going around unplugging lightbulbs throughout the office."

Besides the safety concerns, Martin said he's concerned about his staff not being able to do the job they're paid to do.

"We're a bank and so we deal with a lot of money so generally you'd like your banks well lit."

The state is in a nearly \$2 billion deficit and Martin thinks shutting off the lights isn't the brightest idea to get this solved.

"If you cut the power to every state building you're not gonna save enough money," he said.

Martin went on to say, "These are gimmick measures and half measures and we need to solve the real problem and this isn't going to get us anywhere closer to solving the budget problem."

Instead Martin suggested the Governor call an emergency legislative session.

ABC 15 called the Governor's office for a comment on her decision to shut off the lights; so far her office has had no comment.

By Jose Miguel